

Fusarium toxin levels found to be too high in infant food!

With this heading on July 6, 2000 from the news service of bgvv Berlin, the producers of infant food were requested to dramatically reduce the amounts of fusarium toxins in infant food.

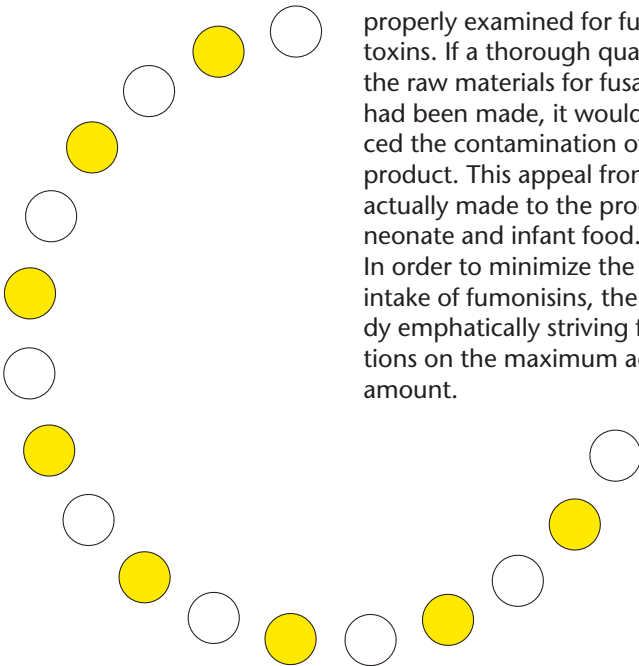
It was pointed out that the authorities, during the examination of infant food from several producers containing grain substances (grain cereals, grits), proved that these products still had high levels of fusarium toxins. Examined wheat and corn products have been shown to contain DON at times with $> 600 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. With such highly contaminated grain, serious health problems could have resulted if the recommended consumption amount of 20 g of cereal products per day for neonates between six and nine months had been followed, as was proposed by the research institute for infant food in Dortmund. The tolerable



daily dosages of $1 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ body weight from the Nordic Council and the Food Research Committee of the EU would have been exceeded.

In the scope of a research project financed by the Federal Ministry of Health, "Fumonisin intake of German Consumers", several kinds of infant food were also tested for fumonisins. It was detected that the analysed products, primarily in cornmeal samples, more often had concentrations of fumonisins of 100 to 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$. One has to conclude from these results that the raw materials were not properly examined for fusarium toxins. If a thorough quality control of the raw materials for fusarium toxins had been made, it would have reduced the contamination of the finished product. This appeal from bgvv was actually made to the producers of neonate and infant food.

In order to minimize the consumer intake of fumonisins, the bgvv is already emphatically striving for EU regulations on the maximum acceptable amount.



Control values for DON and Zearalenon in feed

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture published in the first week of July control values for the assessment of the amount of DON and zearalenon in pig, cattle and chicken feed in

the scope of § 3 of the feed law. By keeping within these values the health and productivity of the animals in respect to these mycotoxins is ensured.

Table 1: Control values for deoxinivalenol and zearalenon in feed

Type of animal or animal category	DON (mg/kg feed by 88 % dry substance)	ZEA (mg/kg feed by 88 % dry substance)
Pig: Female pre-pubertal breeding pigs Fattened pigs and breeding sows	1,0 1,0	0,05 0,25
Cattle: Pre-ruminating Breeding cow/milking cow Fattened cattle	2,0 5,0 5,0	0,25 0,5 -*
Chicken: Laying and fattened hens	5,0	-*

* according to the actual level of knowledge control values are not required

Our products

AOAC approval for the RIDASCREEN®FAST DON test

Apart from the RIDASCREEN®FAST T-2 Toxin test, which has already been certified by AOAC since October 1999, the RIDASCREEN®FAST DON test from the AOAC Research Institute was certified in July 2000.

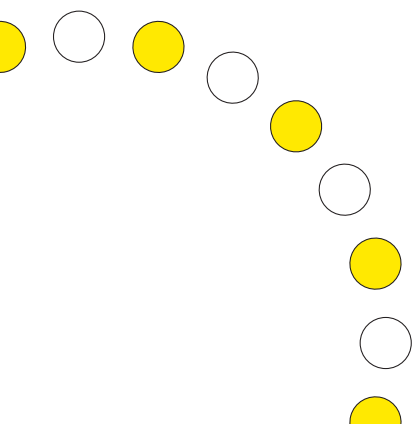
This permit required a further optimizing of the assay, in which the standard range has been modified. The original standard range of 0,111 to 6 ppm, comprised of six standards, was reduced to five standards of 0,222 to 6 ppm. There is no disadvantage with these modifications for our domestic customers, who previously were satisfied with the detection limit of 0,111 ppm. The sample preparation, which is now methanol free, only distilled water is used, can then be modified so that the sample for reaching the original detection level will be reported only in half of the

reported volumes. During the evaluation, one has to, however, take into account when reading the concentrations according to the calibration curve, that the results read are divided by two.

Further, the incubation periods have been shortened. After pipetting the antibody solution, an incubation of five instead of ten minutes is then only required. The substrate/chromogen solution is incubated only for three instead of five minutes.

With the AOAC certified RIDASCREEN®FAST DON test, we offer you not only an improved, but also a validated test, which delivers reliable results for the validated matrices: wheat, barley, barley malt, oat, corn, wheat meal, wheat bran, millet, soya meal, soya flakes and mixed feed.

The AOAC certified RIDASCREEN®FAST DON test is already on the market and can be ordered through your local distributor. You can see the AOAC certificate and the AOAC press release, on our homepage or you can download it: (www.r-biopharm.de).



RIDASCREEN®FAST folic acid

All of the RIDASCREEN® vitamin tests are optimised at the present in F&E and converted to FAST-versions. RIDASCREEN®FAST Folsäure (folic acid) is the first readjusted vitamin test, which is now for sale. The original RIDASCREEN® Folsäure test (R3201) is replaced with the RIDASCREEN®FAST Folsäure test (R3202). The new test is available in a 48-plate format instead of the 96-plate format, which is an advantage to our customers, due to the number of samples. The sample preparation has been improved and made more easy and the procedure of the test has been shortened, so that now only 20 minutes of incubation time are required. The lower middle detection limit of the test has not been modified (1 µg/kg - ppb), also the standard range from 1 to 81 ppb has remained the same.

RIDASCREEN® Acetylgestagene

We have adapted the RIDASCREEN® Acetylgestagene test with the new production to the RIDASCREEN® Melengestrolacetat test, which is a great advantage for the users of both assays.

The enzyme conjugate and the antibody concentrate are now diluted 1:11. The preparation of perirenal cattle fat are now identical in both tests, so that only one sample preparation for both two tests is required. However, the detection limit in RIDASCREEN® Acetylgestagene test has moved from 30 ppt to 300 ppt (0,3 ppb), which is still sensitive enough.

For more information about these assays contact your local distributor.

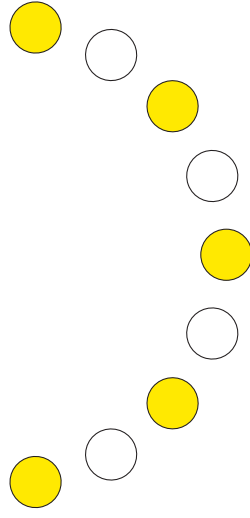
Distribution of >BioControl Systems< products in Germany

R-Biopharm has been distributing in Germany the hygiene monitoring products and the microbiological tests of the company BioControl Systems since July. The hygiene monitoring products are made of the >Lightning System< (luminometer, swabs, calibrators etc.) in order to measure the level of cleanliness in food-producing companies. With this system, not only microbiological contamination, but also food rests, a common medium for bacterial growth, have been proven. The measuring principle is based on the ATP Bioluminescence Technique. ATP (Adenosintriphosphate) is found in all cells of animals, plants, bacteria, yeast and mould and is measured with this system with the help of bioluminescence. Bioluminescence appears when ATP comes together with luciferin and luciferase, an enzyme produced in glow worms. The produced light is measured with the Lightning luminometer. The corresponding amount of light is proportional to the existing amount of ATP, which then is correlated to the amount of food rests or microbiological contamination on the work surface. With this very easy, reliable and sensitive method, the risk of microbes can be controlled, the cleaning efficiency can be checked without any problems and the cleanliness can be proven. The microbiological tests with the names >SimPlate< are quick tests for determining the complete amount of germs, coliforms + E.coli and yeast + moulds. The SimPlate procedure revolutionizes the microbiological routine analysis in relation to speed, simple operation and accuracy. The results are due to a shortened incubation period faster to obtain than with conventional microbiological processes and easier to interpret. The equivalence of SimPlate has been tested with the traditional methods in studies with different kinds of samples (meat, dairy products, fish, vegetables etc...)

41. Work conference in Garmisch-Parten- kirchen



This year we again have, from September 25 - 29, a trade fair booth at the 41st Work Conference of Food and Hygiene in the Field of Work of the German Society for Veterinary Medicine (registered association) in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.



Poultry congress in Panama

This year from 15th to 17th of november the sixteenth central american and caribbean poultry congress will take place in Panama.

Mr. Pablo Altmann, our sales manager international for food and feed analysis, will give a lecture with the title >The presence, analysis and pathological effects in the poultry caused by the nephrotoxic mycotoxin citrinine< within the setting of this congress.



The next RIDA News
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